

**AGENDA #**

**Report of the**  
**Electronic Bulletin Board Ad Hoc Group**  
**for presentation to the Executive Committee**  
**on Wednesday, April 5, 1995**

**Recent Group Changes**

Due to the rapidly changing events in the area of the distribution of electronic media, the Electronic Bulletin Board Ad Hoc Group (the Group) has recently shifted its focus. The undersigned has recently assumed the role of Chair from Alex Landsburg, who continues to play an active role in the Group. The Group has been expanded from its original six members to 19 members, plus two observers from SNAME Headquarters.

**First Group Meeting**

The Group held its first meeting on March 8, 1995, at the Carderock Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) with 14 people in attendance. The Group reviewed the current operations of the Electronic Bulletin Board, had a general demonstration of the World Wide Web (the Web), and discussed the general trends for Internet information distribution and electronic publication.

At this meeting, the Group was informed of the generous offer of the NSWC to host a SNAME Web site free of charge, and to additionally provide the part time assistance of three of their Web development staff.

Considering our discussions and investigations the Group is convinced that the Web should be utilized for the future direction of SNAME's electronic information exchange.

**World Wide Web Background**

The World Wide Web, otherwise known as the Web, is the newest information service on the Internet. The Web is essentially a user friendly way of accessing the resources of the Internet. The Web is based on hypertext, which is a way of presenting documents where selected words provide links to other documents. The Web was initially developed by CERN (the European Laboratory for Particle Physics) in 1990. To access the Web, you run a browser program, typically from a computer connected via modem and telephone line to the Internet. Browsers are available for virtually all types of computers which makes the Web computer platform independent.

The recent development of easy to use browsers for Windows and Macintosh personal computers has stimulated the phenomenal growth in the use of the Web. Once primarily the domain of academia, the Web is now used by government, businesses, and several of our sister technical societies, as a major method for the distribution of printed information.

Connection to the Internet is typically made via a commercial Internet provider over local phone connections in most cities, for a flat monthly fee. During 1995 it is anticipated that all major On-Line services (CompuServe, America On-Line, etc.) will offer connections to the Web.

### **Group Focus and Mission**

We believe the focus of the Group should now move beyond strategic planning and oversight, and envision the following revised mission:

- Address strategic and policy issues related to the electronic dissemination of information and electronic publishing.
- Provide the Executive Committee and Headquarters with information regarding state-of-the-art technologies that can contribute to the goals of the Society.
- Provide information to the Executive Committee regarding the financial implication of various alternative information technologies.
- Mobilize a volunteer organization to launch the initial version of the SNAME Web site.
- Provide a mechanism for ongoing review and commentary on the development of the SNAME Web site and related electronic publishing issues.
- Promote publicity of the SNAME Web site and disseminate information to our Members regarding options available for connecting to the Internet.

### **Work Program and Recommendations**

At the March 8 meeting the Group generally agreed to the following work program:

- To proceed with the development of a SNAME World Web Site, with a target implementation date of September 1995.
- To set up a communication procedure in order to provide ongoing coordination of Web site development, and commentary on issues related to the Web. It is anticipated that all future work will be conducted via the Internet.

The Group was generally of the opinion that the following items are essential to the successful implementation of the SNAME Web site:

- Headquarters integration into Internet capabilities for general administrative functions and electronic communication.
- Allocation of funds to provide technical content for the Web site. Consideration should be given to transferring technical information such as the publications index, paper abstracts, membership database, and all general SNAME information into electronic format.
- Development of plans to publish and distribute technical papers, T&R bulletins, meeting schedules, announcements, etc. in electronic format.
- Promotion and publicity for the Web site in the normal SNAME print publications and at this years Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Tagg  
Chairman